

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 AID-05
/106 W

-----171754Z 040628 /43

R 171400Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4376
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMNA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0050
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0644

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, LY
SUBJ: QADHAFI ADDRESSES OPENING OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

1. EIGGHT SESSION OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE
FORMALLY OPENED AFTERNOON OF MAY 16. FEATURE EVENT OF
EVENING WAS HOUR-LONG RAMBLING ADDRESS BY LIBYAN LEADER
QADHAFI. QADHAFI TOUCHED ON WHAT HE CONSIDERED FIVE OR
SIX IMPORTANT POINTS IN THE 64 ITEM AGENDA.

2. PALESTINE. THE LIBYAN LEADER REITERATED THAT
PALESTINIAN QUESTION WAS STILL THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM
FACING ISLAM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND HE URGED THAT
FULL ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO AN EARLY AND JUST SOLUTION.
THE ONLY SOLUTION, OF COURSE, HE RETIERATED, WAS FOR
THE PALESTINIANS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELANDS AND
THE ALIEN INVADERS TO DEPART. HE REGRETTEED THAT
SOME ARAB COUNTRIES (READ EGYPT) WERE NOT EXERTING
FULL EFFORTS TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

3. ERITRES. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT LIBYA HAD PROVIDED
MORAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ERITREAN INSUR-
GENTS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, QADHAFI CLAIMED THAT
CIRCUMSTANCES HAD NOW CHANGED. HE POINTED OUT THAT
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LIBYAN ASSISTANCE BEGAN UNDER THE REPRESSIVE REGIME
OF EMPERIOR HAILE SELASSIE. NOW, HOWEVER, WITH A TRULY
PROGRESSIVE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN ETHIOPIA THE
ERITREANS SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND JUSTICE
WITHIN THE COUNTRY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE
NOT ONLY MSULIMS IN THE ERITREAN REGION OF ETHIOPIA
BUT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY AND HENCE MUSLIM
CONCERN SHOULD BE FOR THE TOTALITY OF THE MUSLIM
POPULATION NOT SIMPLY REGIONAL CONCERN.

4. UNITED NATIONS. VETO POWER BY PERMANENT MEMBERS
WAS UNJUST AND SHOULD FORM ORGANIZATION OF
THEIR OWN.

5. SOUTHERN AFRICA. QADHAFI CLAIMED THAT IN REALITY
THERE WERE MUSLIM MAJORITIES IN MANY COUNTRIES IN
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA WHOSE SUPPORT THE CON-
FERENCE SHOULD FOCUS ON. HE BELIEVED THAT IN KENYA,
UGANDA, TANZANIA AND MOZAMBIQUE THE MUSLIMS

REPRESENTED MORE THAN HALF THE POPULATION. HE LAMENTED THAT IN COUNTRIES WHERE MUSLIMS WERE IN THE MINORITY THEY WERE OPPRESSED BY CHRISTIANS, BUT IN COUNTRIES WHERE CHRISTIANS WERE THE MINORITY THE MUSLIMS DISPLAYED TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING.

6. CYPRUS. QADHAFI CHARACTERIZED THE TURKISH ACTION IN CYPRUS AS LEGITIMATE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING AGREEMENTS. HE CLAIMED THAT THE TURKISH INTERVENTION ACTUALLY SAVED ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS FROM THE GREEK FASCISTS WHO PLANNED TO MURDER HIM. HE OBSERVED THAT STRIFE CONTINUED IN CYPRUS AND THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION WAS ABSOLUTE EQUALITY BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0644

7. EGYPT. QADHAFI REGRETTED THE ABSENCE OF EGYPT AND SUDAN AT THIS IMPORTANCE CONFERENCE. HE BELIEVED THAT ISLAM WAS IN DANGER IN EGYPT PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE THE LEADERSHIP HAD SOLD OUT TO US IMPERIALISM WHICH SOUGHT TO PROMOTE CHRISTIAN INTERESTS. IN AN ASIDE HE CLAIMED US SUBSIDIES TO THE VATICAN ENCOURAGED PROSELYTIZATION. MUSLIMS, HE SAID, SHOULD COUNTER WITH OWN MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES.

8. ISLAM. UNSURPRISINGLY, COLONEL QADHAFI DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO EXTOLLING THE VIRTUES OF ISLAM, WHICH UNLIKE OTHER RELIGIONS, PROMOTED ABSOLUTE EQUALITY AMONG MEN REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY OR RACE. HE OBSERVED THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF ISLAM WAS THE ONLY TRUE GUIDE FOR GOVERNMENT SINCE WRITTEN CONSTITUTIONS WERE ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, BUT THE KORAN WAS ETERNAL.

9. PHILIPPINES. COLONEL QADHAFI EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT, MORE IN SADNESS THAN IN ANGER, FOR THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. HE SAID EVENTS THAT WERE TAKING PLACE WERE NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENTS MADE IN TRIPOLI. THE MOROS, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE FREE TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS IN ANY WAY
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THEY COULD.

10. FOREGOING IS PRETTY MUCH STANDARD QADHAFI BUT IT DOES RATHER NEATLY SUMMARIZE THIS ONGOING PREJUDICES AND CURRENT CONCERNS. ERITREA IS LIKELY TO BE TRICKY ISSUE AND QADHAFI'S EFFORT EXPLAIN LIBYA'S SUSPENSION OF AID TO INSURGENTS MAY CAUSE PROBLEMS. WHILE THE RESPONSE TO HIS SPEECH WAS WARM, IT WAS CERTAINLY NOT OVERWHELMING. NEVERTHELESS, THE CONFERENCE ITSELF IS LIBYA'S LARGEST EFFORT AT HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING AND CERTAINLY CONTRIBUTES TO ITS PRESTIGE. BEING AWARE OF THIS, THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IS SPARING NO EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE ITS GUESTS IN MAKING THE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PORO, LY, (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
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